

THREE ARMIES TO DEAL THE DEATH BLOW.

Methuen and Buller to March When
Roberts Does.

MUST RUSH THE NATAL PASSES.

General Who Lost the Battle of Magersfontein Expected to Lead a Division From Vryburg Direct to Kruger's Capital—England Believes that if Mafeking is not Already Saved, Relief is but a Question of Time.

London, March 20.—England waits in keenest anxiety for news of the relief of Mafeking, and it is expected every hour. There is little doubt that Colonel Plumer had engaged the Boers besieging the town a week ago.

It is believed the advance upon Pretoria will be from three points. Methuen is working slowly northward, and is expected to advance eastward from Vryburg, when Roberts moves, and Buller, it is believed, will at the same time make an effort to break through the Natal passes and march on to Pretoria. At midnight George Wyndham, Parliamentary Under Secretary for War, replying to an inquiry about Mafeking, smilingly said: "I think it is all right."

GIVES KRUGER TWO MONTHS.

London, March 20.—Lord Wolsey, the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the Empire, says the Daily News, under this prediction many weeks ago: "Bloemfontein will fall on March 15, and Pretoria, if the Boer resistance is continued, on May 15."

ROBERTS' BLOW PLANNED.

London, March 20.—"Not yet" is the answer returned late tonight to inquiries who anxiously clamor for news of Mafeking's relief. The news, however, is confidently expected, and nearly everyone believes the town has been relieved.

Since Colonel Plumer broke through the Boer lines at Kamutse he has made rapid progress, and there is little doubt that he was fighting the Boers outside the town a week ago.

The Boers on Friday declared that a strong column of their forces was surrounding the town, and that it would be impossible for the British to break through.

METHUEN MAY GO TO PRETORIA.

Methuen's advance to Fourteen Streams, 50 miles north of Kimberley, and his seizure of the bridge there, hardly means that his intention is to push on to Mafeking. His slow progress would not take him there in time. It is more likely that he is preparing to establish a base of supplies in the vicinity of Vryburg, and then, when Lord Roberts moves, to lead a division in the Transvaal, moving toward Pretoria by the way of Rustenburg, while Roberts presses northward from Bloemfontein. While Roberts will assuredly be stoutly opposed before and after he crosses the Vaal River, and especially in the mountains 50 miles south of Pretoria, Methuen, advancing from the westward, would have a comparatively level country before him until within a few miles of the Boer capital. The supposed strategic intention of Lord Roberts, it is believed, would seriously disconcert the Boers, who seem to have made all their preparations to fight out the war on the Vaal River.

"BOERS" RUN A RAILROAD.

Lord Roberts captured eight locomotives and a large number of cars when he entered Bloemfontein, and today he set them to work. The railroad from Cape Town to Bloemfontein is now in the hands of the British, and trains are running on it, carrying supplies to the British army.

Hitherto the army that captured Orange and occupied Bloemfontein has been supplied by ox trains, toiling over the veldt 150 miles from Orange River.

At the same time that Lord Roberts starts north, when Methuen will probably advance, it is believed that Buller will be directed to rouse his army, which is now thoroughly rested, and to lead his whole force against the passes north and west of Ladysmith, in the hope that he may break through at Ladysmith or Van Rensburg and also march to Pretoria. By that time Gatacre, Brabant and possibly Clements will have moved northward and joined Lord Roberts, and thus, from three directions, the greatest army England ever had in the field will be closing upon the stronghold of the Transvaal.

The Boers ridicule the idea that Buller will ever push his way through the Nek of Natal and say that every passage is strongly defended and formidably entrenched.

WHAT SAM JONES THINKS OF TAZEVELL.

He Tells About His Visit to our Town and the Coal Fields.

The Atlanta Journal of the 3rd inst. had a communication from Rev. Sam Jones, a part of which we give below, and will be interesting to our people:

CARTERSVILLE, GA.,
March 2nd, 1900.

To the Editor of The Journal:

Since writing from Knoxville last week I have made a tour of Southwest Virginia, taking in Tazewell, Pocahontas, Roanoke, etc. I spent last Sabbath on the crest of the Alleghenies in Southwest Virginia at Tazewell court house, the thermometer four degrees below zero and the wind blowing a gale. It seemed to me the coldest country I have struck in all my rounds. The snow-capped mountains furnished a surface like the glaciers of the northern ocean for the winds to whirl over. Fire by day and cover by night did not meet the demands of the occasion, and yet, to

my astonishment, I lectured Saturday night to a house full of people and preached Sunday to a great crowd.

There is nothing like being used to a thing. Those hardy mountain people care very little for cold weather. That is a beautiful country, in mountains and valleys. They grow the finest cattle and some of the most splendid horses that are raised on this continent. I was astonished at the culture and the good citizenship of that mountainous country. They are away above the average in Tazewell county.

I spent Monday at Pocahontas. Here are the great coal fields of the Norfolk and Western Railway Company. With mines inexhaustible and a double-tracked railroad, they are hauling it out. It looks to me like a thousand cars a day. This great coal field, with its veins six and eight and ten feet thick, furnishing the finest coke and coal in the world, is above water level in the mountains, and perhaps it is the earliest mined coal in America. It is the finest steam coal, and more and more it is coming into requisition by the ocean steamers.

This is a live settlement. Pocahontas, a new city of five or six thousand inhabitants, looks like one house upon the top of another as they ascend the mountains which surround it. The saloons there are doing a thriving business. I am told that a little mining camp of three hundred, only a few miles from Pocahontas, has sixteen saloons in full blast. These saloons bring great prosperity, many think; in fact a fellow on the train, talking the other day, said that the wide-open towns were the prosperous towns, where saloons and gambling and other nameless sins flourished—there, said he, is prosperity. I asked him did he drink much. He said no. I asked him did he gamble. He said no. I asked him did he live the life of a libertine. He said he did not. Then I said to him:

"You are not prospering; if these things bring prosperity you ought to jump in ankle deep, head first most."

"No," he said, "I did not mean that."

I said to him:

"We are all made out of the same sort of dirt, and a city was but a multiplied individual, and if it helped a town it ought to help an individual, and he was in his own light and working against himself if he did not go in and practice what he preached."

The average fellow in America is either honestly or dishonestly of the opinion that the wide open towns are the prosperous towns, but the truth of the business is the town, with its manufacturing and mining industries, is the prosperous town. Prosperity is the result of toil, of industry, of uprightness, of morality, and these saloons and gambling hells feast and fatten upon the toil of the thousands of laboring men, in Klondike, in Pocahontas, Va., and in Atlanta, Ga.

BRYAN LOSES SUPPORT.

One of His Strongest Adherents, E. V. Brewster, Discards Bryan Views.

New York, March 19.—Eugene V. Brewster, of Brooklyn, who was toastmaster and chairman of the Bryan dinner and who has been probably the most conspicuous member of the so-called "Chicago Platform Democracy," has written a letter to William J. Bryan, in which he says that he cannot support Mr. Bryan for the Presidency, and that he now abandons all effort to "effect a union of reform forces" under Bryan's leadership. Mr. Brewster in a discussion of the general question of trusts and machinery, said:—"The trust question, to which you are devoting most of your attention, involves the very greatest and really the only problem that the American people have to solve. Respectfully, you seem to see only one side of the case, and, seeing only evil on that side, you would unhesitatingly destroy the trust. You do not seem to realize, dear Mr. Bryan, that the same arguments that you apply to the trust also apply equally well to improved machinery, and yet you would not destroy that."

NO FEAR OF WAR WITH CHINA.

Sensational Reports Denied by Washington Officials.

Washington, March 18.—In official and diplomatic circles here a denial is authorized of published reports that there have been conferences with a view to the dispatch of additional warships and United States soldiers to China, and that news of the gravest character had been received from the United States Minister to China. There is said to be no fear entertained that any serious danger to American interests is impending.

It is suggested that the published reports have as their basis the recent action of the Navy Department, made public at the time, in directing Admiral Watson, who is in command of the naval forces in the Philippines, to send a warship to the port of Faku, at the mouth of Pei-Ho River. This was done as the result of the representations made to the State Department by Minister Conger, who reported that serious attacks had been made upon the American missions in Shang-Tung by the "Boxers," a powerful and numerous anti-foreign league of Chinese. Secretary Long said tonight that this was all that had been done by the Navy Department, and he was not yet aware of which of his vessels the Admiral had decided to send to the Chinese port. The Secretary further denied completely and emphatically the correctness of the publication, so far as the Navy Department was concerned, and added that there had been no conferences such as were reported as having taken place on the subject.

What's Your Face Worth.

Sometimes a fortune, but never, if you have a sallow complexion, a jaundiced look, moth patches and blotches on the skin—all signs of Liver Trouble. But Dr. King's New Life Pills give clear skin, rosy cheeks, rich complexion. Only 25 cents, at Jones & Jackson's Drug Store.

FRENCH PRAISE OF AMERICA.

For Her Tender of Good Offices In Behalf of Peace.

CRITICISM NOT JUSTIFIED.

Complaints of a Part of the French Press Held to Be Without Warrant—If Threats of Destruction of the Gold Mines are Carried Out European Powers May Intervene.

Paris, March 17.—"The United States has shown selfish Europe an example," said a responsible official to the representative of the Associated Press, when asked what was the feeling of the French government regarding President McKinley's offer of his good offices to England. "We felt," continued the official in question, "that our own position with respect to England, in view of the present state of public feeling there, was too delicate to admit of our acceding to Mr. Kruger's appeal; and, as this reluctance appeared to be shared by every other power, the action of the American government in taking the initiative came as an agreeable surprise. That it did not succeed does not detract from its merits."

The Associated Press representative called the interlocutor's attention to the complaints of a portion of the French press that President McKinley refrained from backing up his offer, which was necessary to its success, some papers having openly stated that his action was a mere election maneuver and not intended to be successful.

CRITICISMS NOT JUSTIFIED.

"In our view," replied the official, "these criticisms are utterly unjustified. President McKinley did even more than up to the last moment was expected over here. Only the members of chancelleries who realize the delicate nature of such a step, can appreciate America's effort at its proper value. The French government, while not prepared to take the initiative, would in conjunction with Russia, readily have supported America; but the promptitude of England's refusal cut the ground from under them."

The official's informant added that, although there appeared to be little likelihood of the intervention in the immediate future, yet hopes are still entertained that an offer of good offices from the powers may eventually prove acceptable.

THE GOLD MINE QUESTION.

This question of the destruction of the gold mines as predicted by Mr. Montagu White, is regarded as a serious matter here, and as being not merely possible, but probable. It is learned that the French government has received information to the same effect from another source, and it considers the descendants of the Dutchmen who flooded their own country in order to repel an invader, quite capable of following this historic precedent in the case of foreign-owned gold mines. The French press has taken up the matter and points out the enormous amount of French savings in the Rand gold fields.

It is stated that if the Boers carry out their threat it will take at least three years to reconstruct the surface machinery and other plants, while immediate destruction could be wrought by dynamiting the underground workings.

France owns a third of the shares in the Transvaal mines, and these alarmist predictions have already had their effect on the quotations. Thus, since Tuesday, Robinson has dropped from 210 to 200, Ferreira 493 3/4 to 485, and Geldenhuys from 148 to 140.

The tension of feeling between France and England certainly has undergone a change this week, for which the conciliatory article of the London Times is largely responsible.

REPUBLICAN MASS-MEETING.

The Republicans of Tazewell Met and Sent Delegates to State and District Conventions.

On Tuesday, the 19th inst., the Republicans of Tazewell county assembled in mass-meeting in the court house at 1 p. m. The bad weather which had been prevailing for several days, and the high waters kept many persons from coming to town; and, consequently, the mass-meeting was not as large in numbers as it would have otherwise been. As it was, the meeting was a good one and all sections of the county were represented.

The meeting was called to order by H. G. McCall, county chairman, and he nominated Hon. W. B. Spratt for chairman. Mr. Spratt was chosen chairman of the meeting, and upon motion Wm. C. Pendleton was made secretary.

The business of the meeting being stated to be the election of delegates to the State convention, to be held at Norfolk on the 10th of April, and to the District Convention to be held at Bristol on the 5th of April, 1900, the following were nominated and elected:

CLEAR FORK DISTRICT—STATE CONVENTION.
W. G. Mustard, Geo. Shafer, M. L. Peery, R. A. Crockett and J. W. Hilton, delegates. W. L. Burton and E. M. Moss, alternates.

DISTRICT CONVENTION.
M. L. Peery, R. A. Crockett, Geo. Shafer, W. W. Wells, Wm. L. Burton, P. P. Dixon, H. L. Bowen, Wm. L. Mustard and Nick Carter, delegates.
C. W. Crockett, Wm. Goodman, R.

F. Kidd and Dr. Frank Prott, alternates.
JEFFERSONVILLE DISTRICT—STATE CONVENTION.

Wm. C. Pendleton, John Peery, John W. Crockett and W. G. Young, delegates.
G. M. Graybeal and John D. Dailey, alternates.

DISTRICT CONVENTION.
C. J. Barnes, Wm. C. Pendleton, Shields Harman, S. C. Peery, Wm. Claytor, John D. Dailey, Alex. Beavers and T. B. Warren, delegates.
Barnes Gillespie, J. P. Whitman, C. W. Matthews and Sam Young, alternates.

MAIDEN SPRING DISTRICT—STATE CONVENTION.
Hon. H. Bowen, Wm. Bandy, W. L. Moore, N. L. McLeod, delegates.
W. B. Spratt and Alex. Steele, alternates.

DISTRICT CONVENTION.
W. B. Spratt, J. G. Barnes, H. Bowen, J. Sanders Gillespie, T. C. Bowen, N. L. McLeod, M. E. Brown and S. F. Allison, delegates.

Geo. W. Sparks, T. H. Gillespie, Ezra Linkous and W. L. Moore, alternates.
A motion was then made and carried that Col. Joseph Harrison be elected as a delegate at large to both the State and District Conventions.

It was then moved and adopted that the delegates to the State and District Conventions, respectively, or so many thereof as should attend said conventions, be authorized to cast the whole vote of Tazewell county in said conventions.

Wm. C. Pendleton then offered the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved by the Republicans of Tazewell county, in mass-meeting assembled:

1st. That we most cordially endorse the wise and patriotic administration of President William McKinley, and will approve of his re-nomination for the position he has so ably and honorably filled.

2nd. That we earnestly sympathize with our distinguished fellow-citizen, and honestly elected representative in Congress, General James A. Walker, in his contest for the seat now illegally and fraudulently held by W. F. Rhea. And we further extend to General Walker our future sympathy and support, should he again be our chosen leader.

The following resolution was then offered and adopted:

"Resolved by the Republicans of Tazewell county, in mass-meeting assembled, that the delegates from this county to the district convention to be held at Bristol, Va., on the 5th of April, 1900, be, and are hereby, instructed to present the name of and vote for A. P. Gillespie as one of the delegates from the Ninth Congressional District to the National Republican Convention which meets at Philadelphia on the 19th of June, 1900.

In response to calls Wm. C. Pendleton and J. N. Harman made brief speeches to the meeting. Mr. Harman explained why he had resigned from the position of county chairman, but stated that he was in the ranks of the Republican party to stay.

Hon. Henry Bowen moved that the thanks of the Republicans of Tazewell county be extended to J. N. Harman for his efficient discharge of the duties of county chairman.

On motion the meeting then adjourned.

Varnish Makes Devote's Varnish
Floor Paint cost 5c. more a quart; makes it look brighter and wear fully twice as long as cheaper floor paints. Sold by John E. Jackson, the druggist.

Hon. Addison Davis
He was perhaps the oldest citizen of Bland county, having been born on Aug. 5th, 1800, and died Feb. 15th, 1900. He was widely and favorably known. He was never married. In the year 1870, he was elected to the Virginia Legislature. He was a very kind man, and spent his fortune mostly upon the poor and friendless people. Just six or eight years ago his estate was worth more than ten thousand dollars, but it all "took wings and flew away." And these who looked upon the old man as he lay in his coffin, saw all that was left of him and his wealth, for he died without a penny. His many friends knew nothing of his suffering and wants, while he lingered in the valley of death. For two long years he was pained near but an old blind stork. But it was enough, the hand of God very suddenly brought this drama of life to a close. The brother dies and leaves poor, blind "Jule"—eighty years of age—all alone in a dark world. She loved the home where she was born—and tried to do her little house work. On the night of March the 10th, at about 3 o'clock, it was discovered that Miss "Jule" Davis' house was on fire, and in haste the people came to the rescue, but it was too late, the poor creature was found outside of the house, all burned to a crisp—much of the flesh was charred to the bone. This happened just three weeks from the time we buried her brother. Thus comes the tragic end of a once wealthy and influential family. All is quiet—no wave breaks upon the shore—no voice of grief is heard upon the night wind. Side by side lie two pulseless hearts, to await the summons that will bring all men to justice. I join with their many friends in saying,—Farewell, to the dear old people.

South West, Clinch Valley News, and other papers, please copy.

J. T. TAYLOR
Mechanicsburg, Va., March 20th, 1900.

He Fooled the Surgeons.
All doctors told Renick Hamilton, of West Jefferson, O., after suffering 18 months from Rectal Fistula, he would die unless a costly operation was performed; but he cured himself with Bucken's Anker Salve, the best in the World. Surest Cure known on Earth. 25c a box, at John E. Jackson's Drug Store.

BOERS AWAITING BRITISH ADVANCE.

Kruger Passionately Appeals to Burgers to Continue Their Fight for Freedom.

THEY MUST FIGHT TO THE LAST.

Steyn Claims the Boers Have Lost Less Than a Thousand Killed, and That the War is Just Beginning.

Pretoria, March 21.—A dispatch from Kroonstadt, dated Sunday, March 18, was received today. It says the Pretoria commanders there are in grand spirits. They are ready for the enemy and are defiantly awaiting the British advance. President Kruger passionately appealed to the Burgers to maintain their gallant fight for freedom. He told them he was certain that the ultimate result of the war would be that the Boer republics would retain their independence, despite the temporary British occupation of Bloemfontein.

President Steyn followed in a strong speech and told the Burgers that the Free State was far from conquered, because its capital was occupied by the British. He informed the Burgers that England had definitely refused to allow the republics remain independent states. Therefore, all the republics had to do was to fight to the last.

Steyn said that the Boers had lost less than a thousand killed and the war was really just beginning. He warned the Burgers not to accept Roberts' proclamation to lay down their arms. He said that Milner had publicly proclaimed the Afrikaners would be exterminated, knowing that the republics would fight to the bitter end. His speech aroused wild enthusiasm.

RELIEF NEARING MAFEKING.

Sensational Disclosures Regarding Fraudulent Contracts in Victualing Troops.

London, March 21.—It is said that when President Kruger left Bloemfontein he was told by President Steyn to "mind that the British do not catch you, or you'll get better quarters at St. Helena than I." A relief column from the north and another from the south is rapidly drawing near to Mafeking and the relief of the town, it is believed, can not long be delayed.

Disclosures of fraudulent contracts in victualing troops promise to make a big sensation before peace is declared. Lord, one of the strongest Tories in the House of Commons, has taken the matter in hand, and another phase shows that army officers are as deep in the mud as the contractors especially in the purchase of coal.

IN THE EAST.

We will add to our stock of clothing this season a brand new line of Dry Goods and all kinds of ladies ready made garments and furnishing goods. Our Mr. Harrison is now in the Eastern markets purchasing this line of new goods which will very soon begin to arrive.

We adhere strictly to our old policy—the best of merchandise for the least money.

HARRISON & GILLESPIE BROS.

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FAIRBANK'S SOAPS.

When passing our store have you noticed the lovely pictures displayed in our window? To get either of these, buy 25c. worth of Fairy Toilet or Bath Soap, and send the wrappers to Fairbank's & Co., who will at once forward you the picture.

We do not think there is a better soap on the market for the money than this is, and we hope our patrons will take advantage of this liberal offer.

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